



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/996,991	11/30/2001	Witold Neter	213201.00137	6106

27160 7590 09/24/2004

PATENT ADMINSTRATOR
KATTEN MUCHIN ZAVIS ROSENMAN
525 WEST MONROE STREET
SUITE 1600
CHICAGO, IL 60661-3693

EXAMINER

LUK, EMMANUEL S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1722

DATE MAILED: 09/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	09/996,991		NETER ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Emmanuel S. Luk		1722	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 July 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 176-184 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 176-184 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 176, 177, 179 and 181 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 08-103948.

JP 08-103948 teaches the claimed apparatus having an end of arm tool with at least one holder (51), cooling pin comprising of cylindrical projections (146) on frames (32), the frame being also the cooling plate, the cooling plate and arm tool being movable away from one another (Fig. 9), the cooling pin having an internal channel (349) terminating at the tip (148), the cooling pin is connectable to a cooling fluid delivery system (16), tip of the pin spaced away from the first region (Fig. 6), the fluid from the tip in direction to cool the first region via channels in the tip (C2), the frame allowing the article (P) to be spaced away from the pin and thus allowing for venting of the cooling fluid into the atmosphere (Fig. 3a). The pin having a depth so that the tip can allow material to flow to reach the internal dome portion of the preform (Fig. 3b), the tip having the divergent nozzle construction and straight walled nozzle construction (Fig.3b) for focusing the cooling fluid towards the region principally surrounding the first region. The cylindrical projections (146) accommodate an equal number of cavities in the mold. The takeout plate being separate from the mold would naturally conductively cool the exterior of the preform as it is being carried from the mold to the frame. The

flow of the cooling medium throughout the interior surface of the product additionally cools the sprue gate portion, the neck portion and the threaded portion. The formation of PET preforms by the apparatus is also an intended use. The structure of the claimed apparatus is taught by the prior art and the limitation pertaining to the product does not further limit the structural limitation of the apparatus. The structure is capable of holding the article such that the cooling pin is not in contact with the first region.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

5. Claims 178, 180 and 182-184 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 08-103948 in view of Bellehache et al.

JP 08-103948 teaches the claimed apparatus having an end of arm tool with at least one holder (51), cooling pin comprising of cylindrical projections (146) on frames

(32), the frame being also the cooling plate, the cooling plate and arm tool being movable away from one another (Fig. 9), the cooling pin having an internal channel (349) terminating at the tip (148), the cooling pin is connectable to a cooling fluid delivery system (16), tip of the pin spaced away from the first region (Fig. 6), the fluid from the tip in direction to cool the first region via channels in the tip (C2), the frame allowing the article (P) to be spaced away from the pin and thus allowing for venting of the cooling fluid into the atmosphere (Fig. 3a). The pin having a depth so that the tip can allow material to flow to reach the internal dome portion of the preform (Fig. 3b), the tip having the divergent nozzle construction and straight walled nozzle construction (Fig. 3b) for focusing the cooling fluid towards the region principally surrounding the first region. The cylindrical projections (146) accommodate an equal number of cavities in the mold.

The takeout plate being separate from the mold would naturally conductively cool the exterior of the preform as it is being carried from the mold to the frame.

The flow of the cooling medium throughout the interior surface of the product additionally cools the sprue gate portion, the neck portion and the threaded portion.

JP 08-103948 fails to teach a stripper, vacuum, valve, distance ratio, varying diameter, grooves, ribs and contacts.

Bèllehache teaches means for cooling the preforms (5) at the apparatus via circulating atmospheric cooling air. The preforms are removed from the mold via pneumatic grips (25) that act as strippers and holds the preform in place. Beltehache teaches a first circuit (F4) for flowing air to the interior surface and a second circuit (F2)

for flowing air to the exterior surface, and, a suction conduit (12) provides the cooling air to flow through and also holds the preform in place (Col. 3, lines 13-17).

In regards to claim 178, the ratio of the first distance to second distance of the cooling pin to the molded article is a change in size and shape of the cooling pin.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify JP 08-103948 with changes in form or shape as choice of design. In re Dailey et al, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1966).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify JP 08-103948 with a stripper and external cooling means as taught by Bellehache because it allows for improved cooling of the preform by providing active external cooling in addition to the internal cooling provided by JP 08-103948.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 9/21/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant's argument concerns that the prior art of reference, JP 08-103948 and Bellehache, does not teach the cooling pin that are configured to be in the molded article but spaced away from first region and not in contact therewith. However, the structure of the prior art references are capable of being spaced away from the molded article, additionally, a molded article might be of a larger size and therefore the cooling pin will not come into contact with the interior of the molded article when said cooling pin is inserted. The prior art references teach all the claimed structure, the

factor of contact for the cooling pin to the first region is also dependent on the molded article itself, a product, and not based on the structure itself.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Emmanuel S. Luk whose telephone number is (571) 272-1134. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7 to 4 and alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ben Utech can be reached on (571) 272-1137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 1722

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EL


BENJAMIN L. UTECH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700